

Deep Happiness – Persecuted – Week 8 – Pastor Guy 6-25-22

1. Which of the beatitudes has had the greatest impact on you?
2. Which of the beatitudes is the hardest one for you?

Matthew 5:10-12 - "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The eighth beatitude is different from the previous seven. The first seven we are to pursue, but persecution is not something we seek, but rather the result of living out the first seven beatitudes.

3. Have you ever been persecuted for being a Christian?
4. We face persecution because we 'look like' Jesus? In what ways do you think that you 'look like' Jesus?
5. In what ways are you not Christ-like?
6. Are you afraid or concerned about being persecuted?
7. What consequences might you face if you were more vocal about your faith in Jesus?

John 15:18 - ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you."

8. Why would the world hate Jesus?
9. How do you see the world today hating Jesus?
10. Pastor Guy mentioned that since Jesus' death more than 75 million people have been killed or martyred for their faith in Jesus and more than half of those have been killed in the past 100 years. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
11. Why do you think that people continue to proclaim Jesus even in places where they might be killed for it?

"If our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world have their goods and livelihoods taken by force, we can choose to release ours in sacrificial giving.

If other believers are in prison and we are free, we can use our freedom to extend ourselves with joy and without complaint in the work of Christ's kingdom.

If other Christians are exhausted with the pains of beatings and torture, we can surely press through the tiredness and discouragement we often feel and find renewed strength in Christ to continue serving Him." - **Colin Smith, *Momentum: Pursuing God's Blessings Through the Beatitudes***

12. What do you think about this quote from Colin Smith?
13. Does it inspire you in any way?
14. How are we blessed or 'deeply happy' when we are persecuted?
15. If we are not persecuted is there something we should learn from that?
16. Is there anything this beatitude is prompting you to do?